

UNIFIED ADAPTIVE NETWORK ARCHITECTURE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A network switch having a unified, adaptive management paradigm for wireless network devices is disclosed. The switch includes configurable ports for connecting devices. A software application running on the switch allows a network administrator to selectively configure each port to support either a wired device or wireless device. Configuration information and software images that are needed for
10 operation of the wireless device are associated with the port. When a wireless device is first plugged into the switch port, it downloads its configuration directly from the switch port. By storing the configuration information and images at the switch and automatically downloading them to the wireless devices, the task of configuring the devices is greatly simplified for the network administrator. This is particularly
15 advantageous in heterogeneous network environments that support both wired and wireless devices, and where wireless device are readily moved to different ports.